

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

1930 9th STREET

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STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY PROVIDES RURAL AGENCIES FUNDS TO BUY LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT FOR HEART ATTACK VICTIMS

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SACRAMENTO – The California Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority today announced awards totaling \$184,600 in federal funds to 18 state and local agencies to acquire automated external defibrillators (AEDs) that will improve services to cardiac arrest victims in rural communities. The grants also will be used to train first responders in the use of the life-saving equipment.

“Because time is critical in a cardiac arrest situation, we determined that services in rural areas that usually have limited resources could be greatly enhanced by this equipment,” said Richard Watson, interim director of the EMS Authority. “The ability to defibrillate a cardiac arrest patient greatly improves chances of survival until the patient can be transferred to a higher level of care.”

The equipment will be made available to such first responders as EMS officials, law enforcement and fire departments, Watson said.

The EMS Authority is responsible for establishing minimum training and implementation standards for the use of AEDs. It has three chapters of regulations regarding AEDs that encompass layperson rescuers; public safety personnel, such as firefighters, peace officers and municipal lifeguards; and emergency medical technicians.

The grant is from \$12.5 million the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Rural Policy made available nationwide in 2002 as part of its Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant Program. The program encourages coordination between State Offices of Rural Health and State EMS offices to develop the most efficient placement plans for emergency devices in collaboration with local communities based upon areas served.

The State EMS submitted one grant application for all California requestors. A list of the successful agencies and their award amounts is attached.



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**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
RURAL ACCESS TO EMERGENCY DEVICES GRANT PROGRAM
PROSPECTIVE AED GRANT AWARDS**

Agency	# of AEDs	\$ Amount
Alpine County Sheriff's Dept.	1	3550.00
Del Norte County Sheriff's Dept.	1	3550.00
Imperial County Sheriff's Dept	1	3550.00
Inyo County Sheriff's Dept	1	3550.00
Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept	1	3550.00
Modoc County Sheriff's Dept	1	3550.00
Siskiyou County Sheriff's Dept	1	3550.00
The Governor's Office of Emergency Services	5	17,750.00
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	30	106,500.00
Anderson Valley Community Services District	1	3550.00
Brooktrails Township Fire Department	1	3550.00
Fort Bragg Fire Protection Authority	1	3550.00
Mendocino Fire Department	1	3550.00
Piercy Fire Protection District	1	3550.00
Ukiah Valley Fire District	1	3550.00
Westport Volunteer Fire Department	1	3550.00
Angwin Community Ambulance	1	3550.00
CA State Parks and Rec.	2	7,100.00
TOTAL	52	184,600